

REMARKS

The specification and drawings have been amended to better describe the invention, without adding new matter, and for reasons unrelated to patentability.

As another preliminary matter, applicants appreciate the courtesy extended to Patrick G. Burns in an interview conducted on February 5, 2009. Several claim alternatives were discussed, without reaching agreement. Option 1 for claim 1 has been further amended and adopted, with the proposed amendments to claim 6 and additional amendments. This response will provide more specifics and detail, as suggested by the examiner during the interview.

Claims 1-7, 9-11, 13 and 14 stand rejected under § 103(a) on the basis of Ihara et al. Independent claim 1 of the present application has been amended for further clarification. The amendments of claim 1 are supported by the original disclosure on, for example, pages 52-54 of the specification and Fig. 13 and include no new matter.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection because Ihara et al. does not disclose or suggest that the number of types of signals received varies based on the type of receiving operation.

The present invention describes two types of receiving operations, time-programmed reception and forced reception. Both types of receiving operations are known, but the way in which the receiving operations are combined is not known, and would not have been obvious in view of the cited reference.

More specifically, the receiving means can receive more signals in the forced receiving operation than in the time-programmed receiving operation, which saves power by preventing the time-programmed receiving operation from discharging the battery. As seen in the example of Fig. 13, when the predetermined time information value is reached at Step S100, a time-programmed reception is initiated through either the first received station (S102) or the second received station (S103). Reception of only one station is attempted, and if that reception is unsuccessful (S104), the display indicates failure (S109), and time-programmed reception ends.

On the other hand, if forced reception is conducted (S110), a first received station is checked (S111), and if the signal is unreliable (S112), a second received station is accessed (S114). This feature is described at the end of claim 1, which provides that the receiving means can receive more types of standard radio wave signals in the forced receiving operation than in the time-programmed receiving operation.

Ihara et al. (Figs. 2 and 3) merely disclose that regardless of the type of receiving operation, the receiving means will receive a predetermined number of receiving signals. In both cases, though, multiple signals are accessed before signal reception is terminated, so Ihara et al. does not save the power conserved by the present invention.

In the present invention, as shown for example, in the embodiment of Fig. 13, the forced receiving operation tries to receive signals from multiple stations before the receiving operation ends, while the time-programmed receiving operation tries to receive signals from only one station before the receiving operation ends. Accordingly, in the

present invention, the number of types of signals the receiving means tries to receive varies based on the type of receiving operation, and is higher in forced-operation reception.

Additionally, in the present invention, as shown for example, in the embodiments of Figs. 2 and 13, it is possible to make active combined use of the time-programmed receiving operation and the forced receiving operation to detect a standard radio wave signal containing the required time information efficiently, and also limit the consumption of power. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-5 is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 6 of the present application has been amended for further clarification. The amendments of claim 6 are supported by the original disclosure on, for example, pages 22, 25-27 and Fig. 2 and include no new matter.

Claim 6 has a control means for controlling the number of times (trials) that a receiving means tries to receive a signal. For example, as disclosed in the specification on pages 21-22, the control means can set the number of trial drives in the first receiving method to one and the number of trial drives in the second receiving method to three. Accordingly, the number of trial drives in the forced receiving operation is larger than the number of trial drives in the time-programmed receiving operation.

As described above, the present invention's unique combination of elements allows for the number of types of signals the receiving means tries to receive to vary based on the type of receiving operation, which Ihara et al. do not teach or suggest. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 13 and 14 is respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, applicants believe that this case is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The examiner should call applicants' attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

If a Petition under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a) for an extension of time for response is required to make the attached response timely, it is hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a) for an extension of time for response in the above-identified application for the period required to make the attached response timely. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge fees which may be required to this application under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 07-2069.

Respectfully submitted,

GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD.

By



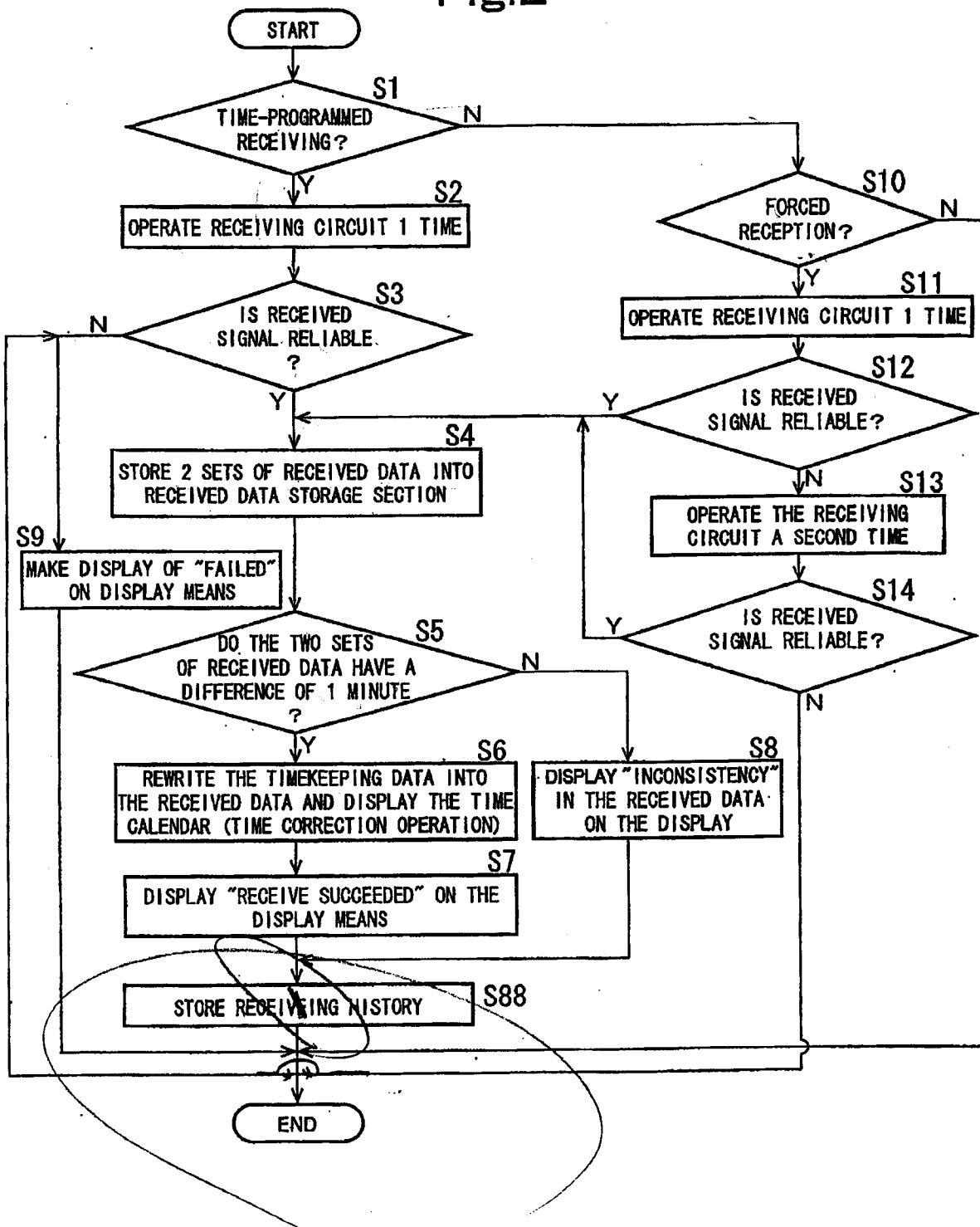
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Fig.2



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Fig.13

